GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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FAN-MAKING IN JAPAN: DRYING THE "BONES" OF THE FAN

Regarded as an emblem of life that widens as the sticks radiate from the rivet, the fan is selected by the Japanese as a New Year's gift, and it is one of the gifts the bride takes with her to her husband's house. It is given to a youth upon the attainment of his majority, and is used as a signal by umpires of wrestling matches and by jugglers in feats of skill. Upon the presentation of a male child at birth to the temple of his father's deity, he receives two fans, while a girl is given a cake of pomade to bring good looks (see Bulletin No. 1).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Fan Industry Booming in China

CHINA is a center of interest just now because of its revolution and possible intervention of outside powers for the protection of their interests. But the great eastern republic is of permanent importance to the western world because of various industries. Fan-making is one of these industries. Recent trade figures showed that Hankow has been forging ahead as one of the Orient's largest fan producing centers.

Hebrews, Egyptians, and the variegated population of India have used fans as far back as history reaches. The winnowing fan for blowing chaff from grain is often mentioned in the Scriptures, and various bas-reliefs, centuries old, reveal the use of the fan as an ornamental as well as an industrial instrument. On one bas-relief Sennacherib is shown attended by women carrying feather fans.

Poets Blame Cupid for Its Origin

While historians, in their quest for cold facts upon which to base their narratives, have traced the fan's use back to the reign of the Chinese Emperor Hsien Yuan, B. C. 2697, the poets would blame Cupid for its origin. They refer to the Spanish story—that the first fan was a wing which Cupid tore from the back of Zephyrus to fan Psyche as she lay asleep on her bed of roses. Equally interesting is the old Chinese legend—that the fan had its origin at the Feast of Lanterns where, when the heat was oppressive, the beautiful daughter of a mandarin let fall her mask. When she picked it up she agitated it to cause a gentle breeze upon her face. The rest of the revelers were so struck with the grace of the motion that they all dropped their masks and followed her example.

Used to Keep Flies from Sacred Vessels

In the Middle Ages the fan became an essential and sacred instrument in religious and state ceremonies. The Egyptian fan-bearer was an officer of high rank; the position was one of the highest in the gift of the monarch and one for which only royal princes and scions of the families of the first nobility could qualify. The ceremony of investiture took place before the monarch with stately pomp.

The fan had its place in the liturgy of the early Christian Church. The fire-fan (bellows), a sacred instrument, was used by the priests to brighten the altar fires. The flabella (religious fans) of parchment, peacock feathers, or fine linen, were held by two deacons standing beside the altar, keeping the flies from the sacred vessels.

Gradually the use of the flabella took on a deeper meaning; they were held to signify the wafting of divine influence upon the ceremonies, the movement to and fro symbolizing the quivering of the wings of the angels. This meaning ceased with the close of the sixteenth century, yet to-day large peacock feather fans are carried at religious festivals; and upon ordination of a deacon of the Greek Church a fan is delivered to the candidate as a symbol of his sacred office.

The oldest known Christian fan existing is preserved in the cathedral at Monza, near Milan, Italy, probably dating back to the sixth century. Superstition has invested it with magical powers. Pilgrimages by maidens are made

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THE HERMES OF PRAXITELES

This matchless marble, discovered at Olympia in 1877, is considered by many critics the finest example of Praxitelean sculpture extant. It is interesting to recall that while our modern art lovers pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for masterpieces on canvas, the people of Cnidus once refused to sell a statue of Aphrodite by Praxiteles to King Nicomedes, although that monarch offered in exchange to cancel the whole debt of the city, which was enormous (see Bulletin No. 5).

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The Most Popular Geographic Names

THE UNITED STATES, England, France, New York City, China, London, and Germany.

These are names of countries and cities most commonly mentioned in the United States, according to tests reported in the Yearbook of the Department of Superintendence, National Education Association.

Surveys also have determined what, from the American point of view, are the mountains, cities and other geographic features most needful for a school child to know, on the basis of the times he will encounter them in his newspaper and other reading.

The Amazon still is the longest and largest of rivers, but the Rhine ranks first in geographical interest, according to one rating. And after the Rhine come the Nile, Danube, Mississippi, Hudson, Volga, Euphrates, Saar, Jordan and Thames. The mighty Amazon is fifteenth on this list.

In pursuance of their effort to teach first the geographical matters of most common knowledge, educational committees took widely read magazines, newspapers and books. They found that the ten most popular mountains of the earth, judging from times they were mentioned, are: Alps, Caucasus, Rocky, Ural, Carpathian, Andes, Everest, Appalachian, Himalaya, and Mt. Blanc.

Greenland is the largest island, but the Philippines rank first in American frequency of mention, one geography teacher investigator finds, and the six next in line are: West Indies, Hawaiian Islands, East Indian Islands, Porto Rico, Sicily and Samoan Islands.

Bulletin No. 2, March 14, 1927.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

Many requests for the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS were made for the year ending with this issue. If you desire the Bulletins continued kindly notify The Society promptly. The attached form may be used:

School Service Department,
National Geographic Society,
Washington, D. C.

Kindly send.....copies of the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS for the school year beginning with the issue of....., for classroom use, to

Name .....

Address for sending Bulletins.....

City..... State.....

I am a teacher in.....school.....grade.

Enclose 25 cents for each annual subscription.

to Monza on certain days of the year because the act of touching the fan is believed to promote their marriage projects.

Folded Fan Invented by Japanese

The folding fan is believed to be the product of Japanese ingenuity, but, like the non-folding variety, its origin is not certain. Tradition has it that about 670 A. D. a fan-maker's shrewish wife was awakened by a bat flying about her bedroom. She reviled her sleeping husband, who arose and lighted the lamp, with which the bat's wing came in contact. The animal dropped to the floor and, when picked up by the fan-maker, the flutter of its ribbed wing caused a gentle breeze. From this occurrence the idea of the folding fan is said to have been born. Although only a tradition, it is given more than ordinary credence, as the action of the fan-maker is in conformity with the general usage of the Japanese artists and designers who derive their artistic motifs from natural constructive forms.

The advent of the folding fan caused other industries to flourish. Various materials were pressed into service in its making, including ivory, tortoise-shell, lacquer, mother-of-pearl, the various woods, precious metals, silk, skin and paper. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, some of the best known artists and designers of Europe and Asia were employed in the fan industry.

Laborers Use Fans While Working

The fan, which widens and expands as the sticks of the fan radiate, is an emblem of life to the oriental. It enters into almost every phase of life. Men and women of every rank carry fans; artisans use them with one hand and work with the other; friends greet each other with a wave of the fan; it is one of the gifts the bride takes with her to her husband's home; it is used by jugglers in feats of skill, by umpires of wrestling matches for signals; by singers to modulate their voices; it is presented to the youth on the attainment of his majority; and even the condemned man marches to the scaffold, fan in hand.

Although the folding fan came to China by adoption, its use in that country is almost as ancient as in Japan. Every important city or district in China has its characteristic fan, distinctive in make, color, or design. These fans are made to suit every class and adapted to the changing seasons, in proportion to the quantity of breeze required.

In warm weather the fan forms a part of the ceremony of tea drinking. The host takes his fan as soon as the tea is drunk and, bowing to the company, says, "I invite you to fan yourselves." Each guest immediately uses his fan with great gravity. It is considered a breach of etiquette to be without a fan on such occasions or to refrain from accepting the invitation of the host.

Queen Elizabeth has been called the godmother of the fan. It is said she handed fans as gifts to parting guests and made it known that the fan was a suitable gift to a queen. One of her inventories mentioned twenty-seven fans among her effects, and many of her portraits depict her as a fan enthusiast. Queen Victoria sponsored the fan exhibition at South Kensington in 1870 which revived the industry all over Europe.

Million Dozen Imported by U. S. in One Year

Electric driven, palm-leaf and paper advertising fans are widely used in the United States, though milady's formal wardrobe fan, of feathers, is popular. Most of the palm-leaf fans are imported from China; more than a million dozen were received in one year. Manufacturers make more than a half-million electric fans annually. Most of these are used in this country. Japan is the largest buyer of our electric fans; more were sold to that country in 1924 than to France, England, China, Canada, and Mexico combined.

There are no figures available to estimate the number of paper advertising fans produced, but it is believed they run into the millions annually.

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The Malay States: Home of Rubber and Tin

EVERY time you open a tin can or have a blow-out you make business for Singapore, for it boasts the biggest tin smelters in the world, and three-fourths of all our rubber comes out of Malaya.*

Where once the choking jungle crowded men back—a jungle so thick that a man swimming in a stream could hardly land because vines and plants hugged so close to the water's edge—broad fields have now been cleared, and Malaya plantations are among the richest in the world.

Land of Magic Development

Forty-five years ago a few Para rubber plants smuggled out of Brazil fruited here. In the magic development since that time Americans have played a leading rôle.

This Malay Peninsula, stretching hundreds of miles from the Siamese frontier down toward the Equator, forms a vast humid region of dense forests of jungle, wild elephants, snakes, and naked people, rice fields, rubber plantations, and tin mines. Few American tourists see it; those visiting the Orient usually turn back at Hongkong or Manila, and the average traveler from Europe goes no farther than Egypt or the Holy Land. Only the round-the-world tripper sees Malaya, and he usually gets a glimpse only of Singapore or Penang during his few hours ashore while his ship is coaling.

Singapore, built on a tiny green isle of the same name, which lies just off the end of the peninsula and nearly on the Equator, is the capital of the British crown colony commonly called the Straits Settlements. This colony embraces the Province of Wellesley, the Dindings and Malacca on the mainland, and the islands of Penang and Singapore.

The Federated Malay States, on the peninsula, comprises the States of Perak, Selangor, Pahang, and Negri Sembilan. Kuala Lumpur is the capital.

The Melting Pot of Asia

Just opposite Singapore, on the mainland, is the independent native State of Johore, which has its own sultan and government, but which is under British protection. The British Governor of Singapore is also High Commissioner for the Federated Malay States and Brunei and British Agent for North Borneo and Sarawak, thus linking up British possessions and spheres of influence in all Malaya and establishing close contact, through one man, with the Colonial Office in London.

"The Melting Pot of Asia," they call this prolific, potent peninsula, because of the babel of races, colors, and castes which its wealth of rubber and tin has drawn to it. But in all this industrial army of Europeans, Chinese, Japanese, Tamils, Hindus, and assorted South Sea Islanders, the Chinese are the most numerous and powerful.

The Malay himself is too lazy even to be a good fisherman. He grows a

*See "Singapore, Crossroads of the East," by Frederick Simpich, in the *National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1926.

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SINGAPORE, LIKE CANTON, HAS A CHINESE BOAT COLONY

Several thousand Chinese, some of whom never set foot on land, use these boats not only as a means of livelihood but as a place of living. In them are all the impedimenta of a home, including the chickens and a dog and cat. A mat canopy or awning usually covers the middle part of the sampan, which is propelled by a long, single oar projecting from the stern.

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Sardinia Adds a New Chapter to Its Romantic History

WHEN Commander de Pinedo flew across the Atlantic from Africa to Brazil, he made his first start from Sardinia, thereby emphasizing Italian possession of that island as Mussolini has done by visiting the Sards.

Rarely does one encounter so many contradictory statements about a single small area as those made about Sardinia, which is one of the most romantic land spots in the history-steeped Mediterranean.

Automobiles and Ox-Carts

One writer will set forth that it is roadless, mountainous and bandit-infested. The next will tell how wood-wheel ox-carts dispute the right of way with speeding automobiles, of its fertile valleys, and the kindly hospitality of its people.

These divergencies arise because Sardinia is diverse, some of it is inaccessible, and the visitor reports what he saw in one corner of it as applying to the entire island.

Take the towns, for example: Alghero, colonized from ancient Catalina, to-day resembles an old Spanish city. The gay and talkative people of Sassari, the northern province capital, are of Pisan extraction and their dialect still has Tuscan traces. In language, customs and dress La Maddalena is Corsican.

Overrun by Many Races

Sardinia is mountainous, a fact which accounts for the way its settlements retain the characteristics of centuries ago. Various nationalities have overrun it since the times when Phoenician ships put into Sardinian ports, and many of these have left traces which are of high value to the student of racial history.

There are roads, though some of them are the remnants of highways the Romans built. In Cagliari is an amphitheater excavated from solid rock where steps and corridors and animal dens still are discernible. In fact the Roman vestiges to-day are more apparent than medieval mementos because the peasants destroyed many of the latter in quest of hidden treasure.

The plains of Campidano are besprinkled with quaint villages, and if one arrives on baking day he may think the town is afire. The smoke is merely that which filters through crevices as well as chimneys while housewives are preparing the bread which must last for a week's work in the fields.

A Peculiar Water System

A characteristic of each of the plains towns is the crude water-supply system. A blindfolded ass trudges round and round, yoked to a wooden bar which turns the water-wheel. Attached to a rope belt revolving around the rim are earthenware buckets. As soon as a bucket reaches the top it overturns into a wooden trough which empties into a reservoir which supplies water for the gardens.

Gaily clad women do not abound on every hand, as some more rhapsodic writers assert, but in some places the colorful costumes of generations still survive. In solitary Duesulo the women are exceptionally beautiful and they dress in red, so that when a procession of supplicants passes through the village streets the result is a flame of brilliant color against the intense green of the chestnut trees.

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little rice, a few coconuts, and nets the fish he needs, but nature is so kind that it is said one hour's effort a day will support him and his family.

Chinaman Plays Leading Rôle

It is the Chinaman who is the tin miner, the farmer, shopkeeper, artisan, contractor, and financier. The Tamil and the Hindu add to the stock of local labor and own small farms and herds, but the many millionaires made in Malaya have mostly been Chinese. The palatial homes of the rich Chinese bosses in Singapore and Penang, in contrast with the miserable shacks of the natives, afford proof enough of the singular commercial superiority of the Yellow Race.

Here, indeed, Chinese immigration has worked a modern miracle in the magic reclamation of this once reeking, fever-cursed, jungle-grown wilderness. The Chinese it was who first braved the poisonous darts of the lurking savage, the perils of tigers and reptiles, the flames of fever, and the danger of dysentery, to conquer these jungles and dig the tin that put Malaya on the map of the trading world. Chinese say that tin "grows," and they use the divining rod to locate it.

Men of Yellow Race Hold Key Positions

For sheer courage and determination, the tale of Chinese colonization in Malaya is probably without parallel in the history of great racial migrations. To-day many of the Malay's leading bankers, merchants, and planters, as well as its government servants, are men of the Yellow Race.

The white man's conquest of the East shows that wherever the Englishman settles he plants only as much of his own law and customs as is practicable, without arousing too much native opposition.

So, here in the strait, England early declared that the principles of British law should be applied with patriarchal mildness and indulgent consideration for the prejudices of each tribe. All native institutions, such as religious ceremonies, marriage and inheritance, were respected, when not inconsistent with justice and humanity. In this policy lies the secret of British colonizing success.

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SNAILS FOR SALE

There are many varieties of small snails offered in the market place of Sassari. The Sardinians, like the French, prize them as a delicacy (see Bulletin No. 4).

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Agora: The Shopping District of Ancient Athens

AMERICAN scientists preparing for explorations of the Agora, at Athens, are invading one of the richest fields of ancient history known to the world of today.*

The Agora was to Athens what the country crossroads general store, with its flour barrel rostrums and soap box philosophers, is to Bird Center. The Agora is important because it is the most famous market forum in the world.

Where the Athenians Marketed

When one thinks of Athens one thinks of the Acropolis. But the Acropolis, on its nature-made 250-foot pedestal of limestone rock, was Athens' sanctuary, its church. A tourist, in the days of Herodotus, the traveler, went to the Acropolis. An Athenian went to the market place, the Agora, where he could buy flour, and olives, Hymettian honey in lieu of sugar, and currants from Corinth. Or he tarried and listened to homely snub-nosed Socrates standing in an arcade confusing an Athenian by a few cleverly selected questions.

Athens to-day is estimated to have a population larger than it supported at the peak of its power. To the 293,000 residents of the Greek capital there can be added the 133,000 population of Piraeus, port of the city. Athens and Piraeus are less than 5 miles apart and therefore bear the same relation to each other as Los Angeles and San Pedro Harbor. Fortunately modern Athens has not bitten deeply into the sacred ground of old Athens.

A View from the Parthenon

There will be much in the newspapers and magazines of the excavations in the Agora during the next fifty years. Imagine that one has climbed to the Acropolis and that one is sitting on the southwest corner of the Parthenon with feet dangling over a mellowed marble foundation block.

Directly south will be Piraeus, on the Gulf of Aegina, and in the mind's eye one may exchange the liners and sponge boats at anchor for Greek galleys. A straight, smooth, macadam road shoots north out of Piraeus, but its destination is seen to be west of the Acropolis rock. There are a number of rocky hills between the road and the Acropolis, and these the boulevard seeks to escape by veering toward the bed of Cephissus. The rocky hills are littered with age-yellowed marble fragments and ruined walls. On those mounds was built most of ancient Athens.

Directly west of the Parthenon gallery seat, about the distance of two city blocks is the Areopagus, or Mars Hill, second in height to the Acropolis. There the Athenian supreme court sat and there St. Paul revealed the Unknown God. Two blocks farther and a little more to the north is a lower hill crowned with the Theseum, said to be the most perfectly preserved Greek temple in existence to-day.

The Athens of To-day

Crowding up on the north flanks of these three hills, Theseum, Mars and the Acropolis, is modern Athens. The closest quarter is a hodge-podge of

*See, also, "The Glory That Was Greece," by Alexander Wilbourne Weddell, in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1922.

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Variety in Small Compass

This variety of life and physical conditions is surprising because it occurs in such small compass. The island is only 160 miles long and about 70 miles wide.

Its profusion of wild flowers affords a colorful panorama and gives the island a characteristic odor, derived principally from its many pungent herbs and shrubs.

One of its unusual phenomena is the series of ponds, known as sea pools, on its southern coast. These communicate with the sea and retain a salt content. On the flats are huge mounds of salt, 20 or 30 feet high.

Flamingoes from Africa make their summer homes in these pools, and any August night, a little after sunset, the birds fly over Cagliari, the city from which the Italian flyer took off, on their daily journey from the west to the east pool. They look like moving crosses, with their short wings, necks outstretched and lank legs trailing behind.

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MAKING CORKS IN SARDINIA

Formerly corks for bottles were laboriously pared by hand, a dangerous process. To-day they are made by machines which whirl the square blocks of cork around a stationary knife.

dwellings and bazaars. It is the Agora, and a market to-day just as it was in Athens' youth. But the stores to-day sell antiques, spurious and real, and millinery instead of flour, olives and honey.

Sprouting among churches, dwellings and stores, one can see a few remnants of ruins that have been unearthed already. By agreement all the modern stores and homes must go. The archeologists will peel back the new to discover the ancient. Present occupants must take new homes or stores in modern Athens.

Continuing the panorama to the north, one sees this modern city occupying the whole cup of the plain encircled by the Acropolis, Mt. Lycabettus and Mt. Hymettus. Up the valley of the Cephissus it is swiftly spreading toward the famous plain of Marathon, which can easily be seen from the lofty vantage point. If the Athenians had had good telescopes, the Marathon need never have been run.

An Athenian "General Store"

Excavation of the site of an American crossroads store two thousand years from now would not reveal much about our daily lives.

Although the Agora is by comparison also a market and a political storm center, it was somewhat different. In its exterior design an Athenian general store, called a "stoa," resembled a modern bank; a row of substantial marble pillars marched across the front of it. There was an arcade between the pillars and the store counters themselves. And at the rear of the stores were inclosed warehouses in which goods were locked at night.

The front arcade was a social center. If an Athenian had a little time to loaf, he didn't take a bath like a Roman or play a round of golf like an American. He found a shady store front and talked politics. Everything was made convenient for loafing. Benches were placed about. Incomparable statues of bronze and of Parian marble looked down upon the groups. The gods, the famous kings, heroes, poets, philosophers, orators and playwrights were represented in these market halls of fame. Some of these statues archeologists hope to find.

Free Entertainment in Agora Arcades

Free entertainment awaited the idler in the Agora arcades. Acrobats performed. Magicians swallowed swords. One such building had a restaurant where the thirty city councilors were given a free meal every day by the government. But above all there was talk and discussion and speeches. And out of this idler's paradise came the first and freshest school of philosophy the world has ever known.

In the Agora, Solon posted his laws which earned the perpetuation of his name in our word "solon" for lawmaker. Here Demosthenes delivered the famous orations against Philip of Macedonia and gave us the word "philippic." There Socrates stood stock still for twelve hours or more, oblivious to the curious throng, while he thought out a new principle of philosophy. There also was the headquarters of the Stoics, from whom we have the word "stoic."

It was through the Agora that the sharp-tongued cynic, Diogenes, wandered with a lantern, fruitlessly searching for an honest man.